

Creating economic opportunities

Phoenix awarded \$170M for economic program

Phoenix has been awarded \$170 million by the federal government under the New Markets Tax Credit Program to help fund development activities in low-income communities, announced U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor, D-Ariz.

Pastor, who has been supportive of the program created by Congress in 2000, said there

is much expectation that the program will help areas within his district.

"We've been awaiting word on this program because there is a great deal of potential to improve low-income areas," Pastor said.

The goal of the program is to direct new business capital to

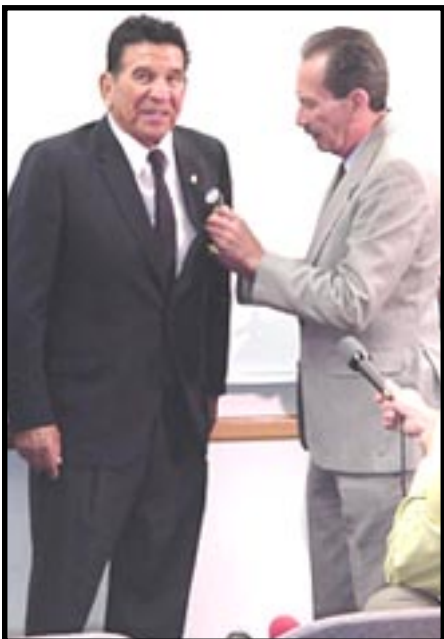
low-income communities, facilitate economic development in these communities, and encourage investment in high-risk areas.

The city of Phoenix has set up the Phoenix Community Development and Investment Corporation, a nonprofit board, to help investors with projects.

Pastor visits solar facility

Congressman Pastor toured Arizona Public Service's (APS) Solar Test And Research (STAR) facility and discussed energy issues in Congress with representatives from APS in February. The STAR facility, which is located in Tempe, is currently the focal point of APS' solar test and evaluation program. Photographed with Congressman Pastor on the left are APS' Cassius McChesney, Bill Post and Herb Hayden.

Arizona's heroes Recognizing our veterans



Congressman Pastor and his office have recognized numerous veterans with military medals they earned for their service to our country. On the left: Steve Zozaya is pinned with the Purple Heart by his son Steve Jr. Top right, Dave Yanez accepts the Purple Heart for his uncle, the late John G. Vasquez from District Director Ron Piceno. Bottom right: Rep. Pastor congratulates John Ligouras for receiving the Bronze Star.



Supporting education

Rep. Pastor recently met with students and supporters of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund to discuss the importance of higher education. The Hispanic College Fund is working with Arizona educational and legislative leaders to encourage students to go to college. Pastor and his wife are photographed on the left, along with scholarship recipients and Hispanic College Fund officials.



HOW TO CONTACT CONGRESSMAN PASTOR

Congressman Ed Pastor's office is in your city to serve your needs. Please keep this information handy to contact his offices for assistance.

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Due to the threat of anthrax-contaminated mail delivered to the Capitol complex, mail delivery to my Washington Office was disrupted and is being released only slowly, as individual letters are treated. Please feel free to resend your correspondence to my Phoenix District Office. Thank you.

✂ *Clip and save* ✂

Congressman

Ed Pastor

WASHINGTON and
DISTRICT REPORT
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CONGRESSMAN

Ed Pastor

WASHINGTON and DISTRICT REPORT

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Fourth Congressional District - Arizona

Spring 2003

Securing Arizona, our country and economy



United to defend our country

Many young Arizonans have joined one of the nation's five military academies to prepare academically for a military career and to defend our country. A Phoenix student recently spoke to an academy representative during Congressman Pastor's Military Academy Day at Cesar Chavez High School in Phoenix.

Dear Fellow Arizonans,

With many of the challenges of the last few months behind us, I remain concerned about the American economy.

The President has submitted his annual budget to Congress and there is little included to stimulate the economy and much to increase the suffering of less fortunate Americans. The primary focus of the President's budget is a massive \$1.5 TRILLION tax cut, primarily benefitting the wealthiest among us, and resulting in larger deficits.

The President's budget also recommends excessive cuts in domestic spending programs, such as child nutrition, Veterans' healthcare, Medicare benefits for senior citizens, and education programs.

We've already spent more than \$75 billion on Gulf War II, none of which was included in the President's budget. While we will spare no expense to protect our troops and country, we should remain cautious about further tax breaks until the President addresses the failed economy here at home.

Sincerely,

Congressman Ed Pastor

Pastor secures \$3 M for police

Congressman Ed Pastor was successful in securing \$3 million funding from the Omnibus appropriations bill to aid Phoenix law enforcement efforts. The bill was passed in February. The Phoenix Police Department will receive \$1.5 million for laptop computers, \$1 million for construction and equipment for a DNA crime lab, and \$500,000 for a Phoenix homicide drug task force response unit.

On the right, Pastor recently met with Phoenix police officers to discuss law enforcement issues.



Congress approves \$20 million for Valley light rail, bus projects

Congress has approved more than \$20 million in federal funding for Valley light rail and transportation-related projects as part of the Omnibus appropriations bill. Congressman Ed Pastor was recognized as a key supporter of the funding.

"This funding will help us improve the quality of our lives," Pastor said.

Pastor is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, and sits on its transportation subcommittee.

Of the funding, \$12 million was awarded to the **Central Phoenix/East Valley Light Rail Transit Project**, a 20.3-mile light rail transit corridor linking activity centers in Central Phoenix, downtown Tempe and west Mesa. **Valley bus maintenance facilities** will receive \$4.2 million for improvements; \$3.835 million will go for **Phoenix bus replacements**; \$200,000 will fund an **Ajo to Phoenix Rural Express Bus Service**; and \$300,000 will fund a **Southwest Transit Assessment and Review Team (START) project** for Bus Route 131 which runs through Avondale.



Friend of transit

Rep. Ed Pastor was recognized as a "Friend of Transit" this year by transit officials in Phoenix for his work in Congress supporting key transit projects. He was presented with the recognition by Alan C. Wulkan and David Schwartz

Pastor: Provide drug coverage

Congressman Pastor said he supports legislation to add affordable prescription drug coverage to Medicare.

"My older constituents frequently express their concerns to me about the rising costs of their prescription drugs," Pastor said. "I am committed to creating affordable drug coverage for our seniors."



Rep. Pastor met with AARP representatives Lupe Solis and Dorothy Lisonbee recently to discuss legislation supporting prescription drug coverage in Medicare.



Solutions to transit needs

Phoenix councilwoman Peggy Bilsten and former Phoenix Mayor John Driggs unveil a copy of a plaque dedicated to Congressman Pastor that thanks him for his work in Congress during the recent opening of the Ed Pastor Transit Center at South Mountain Village.

Ed Pastor transit center opens as city, others recognize Congressman for efforts

In February, the city of Phoenix recently opened the Ed Pastor Transit Center at South Mountain Village on a 4.5-acre site on the northwest corner of Broadway Road and Central Avenue. The center, which will accommodate seven bus routes with an expected daily ridership of 5,600 passengers, was named after Pastor to recognize his efforts in Congress on behalf of Phoenix transit needs.

Other recognitions Pastor has received recently for his work on transportation in Congress include:

- The Women in Transportation Seminar recognized Pastor "for his outstanding contributions to promoting and supporting transportation for the Metropolitan Phoenix Region."
- The Friends of Transit awarded Pastor their first annual "Friend of Transit" award.

Rio Salado renewal continues

Congress okays new funding

Congress this year approved funding for \$25.2 million in projects related to the restoration of the Salt River bed, the Rio Salado and the Tres Rios project in the Phoenix area, announced U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor, D-Ariz.

The House of Representatives approved the funding as part of the Fiscal Year 2003 Appropriations Conference Report that included \$19 million for the Phoenix and Tempe Rio Salado project.

Pastor, a leading advocate in Congress for funding the environmental restoration projects in the Valley, said "we will continue to do the work of restoring our dry riverbeds and developing some recreational areas and wetlands that will enhance the quality of our Valley's natural envi-



Congressman Pastor thanked a volunteer who helped plant more than a hundred cottonwood trees in the Salt River bed under the Central Avenue bridge area in Phoenix in February.

ronment."

In addition to the **Rio Salado revitalization**, funding was approved for:

- A total of \$1.5 million for the **Tres Rios Project**, designed to reclaim and reuse the effluent flow from a Phoenix-area wastewater treatment plant using a series of constructed wetlands along a seven-mile stretch of the Salt River to the confluence of the Gila and Agua Fria rivers.

- \$150,000 for the **Rio Salado Oeste** project that connects the Rio Salado and Tres Rios.

- \$250,000 for the **Agua Fria Groundwater Recharge Project**, also known as the **Phoenix Metropolitan Water Reuse Project**. This is a water reclamation and reuse project along the Agua Fria River that also incorporates a portion of the outflow from the seven-mile Tres Rios project.

Congressman Pastor named 'Starr' for center city efforts



Rep. Ed and Mrs. Verma Pastor.

For his work in Congress on behalf of Phoenix's central city, Congressman Ed Pastor was presented the Center City "Starr" Award by the Phoenix Community Alliance.

"I live and work in central Phoenix and it is important to work towards improvements that will assure our quality of life and preserve our rich heritage."

Pastor's work in support of federal funding for light rail transit and other projects were cited.

The Congressman's family joined him at the luncheon where he received the recognition. The award is named after the late Barry Starr in recognition of his career and community service.

Federal funding for Guadalupe, Goodyear

Congressman Pastor was able to secure funding in the Omnibus bill for projects in Guadalupe and Goodyear.

In **Guadalupe**, \$180,000 in federal funding will help the town make improvements to the Mercado shopping center. This Mexican-style marketplace was relinquished to the town of Guadalupe.

In **Goodyear**, \$225,000 in funding will help pay for construction of a series of well-head treatment systems to comply with a federal mandate that reduces allowable arsenic concentration in drinking water from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion.



Listening to communities' needs

MARC Center opens in Westwood community

Congressman Pastor recently joined city of Phoenix officials in west Phoenix at the opening of the Marc Atkinson Recreation Center. Pastor has been helpful in securing federal funding to help build the center, which was named after a fallen Phoenix Police officer who worked in the area.

Pastor also met with residents of the Westwood community to discuss local concerns.

Rep. Pastor observed young constituent Jake Gordon take part in recreational activities at the new MARC center.

Residents of the Westwood area in west Phoenix recently met with Congressman Pastor in a community meeting to discuss their concerns regarding federal issues.

New west Phoenix neighborhood clinic helping families



Rep. Pastor recently toured the new Mountain Park Health Center West, which has received federal funding to help provide medical care for low-income families. The clinic provides adult, pediatric and OB/Gyn care, and charges on a sliding fee scale based on family size and income. Above he is greeted by Drs. Jose Fierro, John R. Swagert and Terry Woodbeck.



Showcasing young artists

Congressman Pastor's 2003 Congressional Arts Competition is underway. High school artists in Pastor's Fourth Congressional District are encouraged to enter their original works by **May 1**. A winning entry will be sent to Washington to be exhibited for a year in a corridor leading to the U.S. Capitol. More information is available by contacting Michele Trejo at 602-256-0551, or michele.trejo@mail.house.gov.

Photographed above is last year's winner, Deniece Carréon, a Maryvale High School senior, with her winning piece entitled "Fragmented Vision of True Beauty."